



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Friday - January 10, 2003

- ***In the West***, rain and snow showers are returning to areas from ***northern California to the Great Basin***. Farther south and east, however, drought-related concerns from the ***Southwest to the central Rockies*** include low reservoir levels, meager mountain snow packs, and stressed rangelands.
- ***On the Plains***, some of the coldest air of the season is overspreading ***northern portions of the region***, where this morning's low temperatures ranged from -5 to 5 degrees F. The return of more typical weather to drought-affected areas from ***Montana to eastern Colorado and northern and western Kansas*** is increasing concerns about winter wheat, especially since the crop has no protective snow cover.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, cold, breezy weather is replacing recent, record-setting warmth. Dry weather continues to promote off-season fieldwork in the ***upper Midwest***, where widespread precipitation last fell more than two months ago. ***Des Moines, Iowa***, which posted a January-record high temperature of 67 degrees F on January 8, last received daily precipitation in excess of one-quarter of an inch on October 25.
- ***In the South***, light rain showers are briefly returning to the ***southern Atlantic region***, where a wet weather pattern since early autumn has caused significant fieldwork delays but eradicated long-term drought. Meanwhile, wet soils continue to hamper fieldwork from the ***western Gulf Coast region to the Delta***, despite a recent period of warm, favorably dry weather.

Outlook: Cold, mostly dry weather will prevail in areas ***east of the Rockies***, although snow showers will persist downwind of the ***Great Lakes***. Meanwhile, a weakening Pacific storm system will bring rain and snow to ***northern California, Great Basin, and the central Rockies***. The threat of precipitation will shift northward into the ***Pacific Northwest and northern Rockies*** over the weekend. Elsewhere, periods of rain will develop in the ***Gulf Coast States***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for January 15-19 calls for drier-than-normal weather ***west of the Rockies***, across ***southern Texas***, and from the ***Midwest into the Northeast***. Above-normal precipitation is forecast on the ***High Plains*** and across the ***South***. A significant cold outbreak is possible ***east of the Rockies***, where below-normal temperatures are expected, while warmer-than-normal weather will be confined to ***California, the Great Basin, and the Southwest***.

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